Improve Operations at the FDA and the NIH

Helping the agencies bring life-saving treatments and cures to American patients more quickly

The Problem:

- Bureaucracy and red tape are slowing down researchers in their work to bring safe, groundbreaking treatments and cures to patients; two separate studies from the National Academies found that principal investigators spend **42 percent of their time on federal research projects handling related administrative tasks**, rather than the research itself.

- On top of that, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has trouble attracting and keeping talented scientists, engineers, and doctors at the agency—there are **nearly 800 vacancies at one FDA center alone**.

The Solution:

Members of the Senate health committee have introduced bipartisan legislation to improve operations at the agencies by:

- Helping the NIH **identify and eliminate unnecessary administrative burdens or unhelpful paperwork** that soaks up researchers' time and takes attention away from developing treatments and cures; and

- **Helping the FDA attract top talent**, both increasing the agency's ability to hire and retain the brightest scientific minds and pay them a salary that is more competitive with the private sector, as well as allowing the agency take advantage of a program, the Biomedical Research Service, that has helped the NIH attract outstanding scientists.